

claims in application no. 09/598,968 have been amended so that the Examiner considers them patentably distinct from the pending claims of the present application. Thus, the basis for the Examiner's 102(f) and double patenting rejections in the present application should no longer exist. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-13 now be allowed and passed to issuance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and action toward that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite the examination of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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